



RUGBY SCHOOL IN 1852.

Site of the Hamilton House, 14th and K streets. The school was so far out that pupils were not allowed to go to the city in those days without special permission.

Firemen's, the volunteer firemen were interested, and in addition to the printed policies, written and furnished by the companies, the insured were furnished with castiron circular plates, bearing the name of the insurance company, to hang on the front of the buildings to notify the firemen of the fact that they were interested in whatever loss might ensue. Some of these tablets may yet be seen on a few of the old-fashioned buildings today.

Out-of-Door Sports.

The old race course north of Columbian College, which had been the scene of many notable trials of speed and endurance for nearly half a century, was now on the decline—a national trotting course having been established in Alexandria county, where the sporting people were attracted.

Many of the popular sports of today were unknown. Base ball and foot ball were unheard of, but there was some attention given to athletic sports. Some of the older people often pitched quoits about the court house and in many open places about the city, and the boys had their games of cricket, town ball, round cat and box, played with rubber balls; shinny, or bandy, played with a hard ball; prisoner's base, short fox, or long fox, etc., minus ball or stick; as also kite flying and marbles and mumplege. Boat racing was not unknown. Two or more clubs existed, the Falcon and Ariel, being well fitted with racing craft. On the river front and in the mouth of the canal, as well as round the G street wharves and in the Eastern branch, were many sailboats, and often there were sailing matches between the boats of different sections, including Georgetown and Alexandria. Races with ordinary rowboats and bateaux were not rare, and there were many proficient skiff paddlers. There were public bowling alleys and billiard saloons to be found, such as Farrar's, at 6th street and Missouri avenue; the Antheum, on the avenue west of 4½ street; Washington Hall, John E. Morse's, corner 6th street and the avenue; Fielder Burche's, above the avenue; Copp's, on Louisiana avenue, with shooting gallery; H. N. Robey's, on the avenue near 12th street, and John Douglass, on Louisiana avenue near 6th street. There were also some private alleys and tables, whose owners allowed well-behaved young men to use them at times. That there was some good blood in the youngsters of that day may be inferred from the fact that even some of the boys known as "wharf rats" are now of high rank in the government service and in the professions. Often in the winters there was much sleighing on our avenues and streets, and hundreds of sleighs of every description made merry scenes as long as the sport was possible. When the snow on the avenue was worn out, the scene was changed to less traveled streets. Then, too, we had more facilities for skating than other communities in this latitude, for the extensive water front, with the old Washington canal and Rock creek, were supplemented by many ponds on ungraded streets and squares.

The Local Government.

We had then a local government very unlike that of the present day, consisting as it did of a mayor, board of aldermen and common council, in which the old-time, easy-going conservatism of the population was seen by the long connection of the incumbents with the city government. Mr. Seaton, who left the mayoralty in 1850, after service of ten years, was a member of the councils from 1820 to 1840. His partner, Mr. Gales, had served in the executive chair before him. General Weightman was mayor in 1824, and Colonel Force from 1836 to 1840, and they were long members of the council. The mayor elected in 1850 had had a like experience, as also John W. Maury, elected in 1852. The aldermen elected that year for two years

were Dr. William B. Magruder, Thomas P. Morgan, John Wilson, William F. Bayly, John T. Towers, Dr. Joseph Borrows, Dr. A. McD. Davis, Silas H. Hill, John Wirt, B. B. French, president; Thomas Thonley, James A. Gordon, George Page and Ephriam Wheeler. Mr. E. J. Middleton, who was elected in 1821, was still the secretary, and served until 1859. The common council was composed of Samuel E. Douglass, James Kelly, H. N. Easby, Nicholas Callan, president; R. M. Downer, J. Russell Barr, Joseph Bryan, E. F. Queen, Joseph W. Davis, John P. Pepper, Henry Hay, George Burns, Samuel Hanson, Thomas Hutchinson, John J. Mulloy, William Morgan, A. W. Miller, James Cull, Samuel Pumphrey, W. R. Riley and John Van Riswick. Richard Barry was the secretary from 1827 to 1853. There was a school system, under three trustees, in each of the four districts, with a total of twenty schools; a board of health, of two members, in each ward; an assessor, two magistrates, two constables in each ward, and four commissioners of improvements for the seven wards. The general officers, besides the mayor, were William J. McCormick, register, from 1848 to 1855; Robert J. Roche, collector, from 1851 to 1855; H. W. Ball, surveyor, for the same period, and James M. Carlisle, attorney, from 1850 to 1854. The policing was performed during the day by police constables under a chief of police, then Mr. H. N. Steele, and at night by the auxiliary guard, under Capt. John H. Goddard. The police constables were J. H. Craig, Joseph Hilton, William H. Barnard, William A. Boss, E. G. Handy, J. F. Wollard, R. R. Burr, William Martin, John Davis, William A. Mulloy, J. H. Wise, J. H. Baker, J. A. Willett, Josiah Adams, U. B. Mitchell.

The Organized Police Force.

The auxiliary guard, under Capt. John H. Goddard, was composed of Thomas McGill, Solomon Hubbard, John E. Little, John L. Fowler, Edgar H. Bates, Henry Thomas, Joseph Goodyear, George H. Grant, Thomas E. Williams, Mason Piggot, John Kelly, Washington Lewis, John Davis, S. H. Taylor and William Cox. This force was uniformed in gray and armed with heavy clubs with iron spikes at the end, and was created by act of Congress in 1842. The origin of the force was the act of a drunken man throwing a stone at the President during one of his usual afternoon walks in the grounds immediately south of the mansion. The offender was at once arrested and carried to the central guard house, but the President sent a request to release the man, for his condition was such as to make him irresponsible. He was discharged, and, strange as it may seem, the very man whose act had brought the guard into existence subsequently served as a member of it. This force was paid by the government of the United States, the corporation providing its headquarters, with a lockup at the Center market, where court was held daily by Justices Donn, Smith, Clark and others.

The board of health, as may be supposed, had much to do with the abatement of nuisances, and there were many such, often found in the more thickly settled parts of the city, in shape of stagnant ponds, dense growths of weeds and thistle, the latter so great as to call for annual appropriations. This board kept the death register, and though insanitary as the city was, the average death rate was but a monthly average of eighty.

The coroner was Mr. Thomas Woodward, long also a deputy U. S. marshal, and he had the entire District as his field. It is remembered that in many cases in those days, when the finding of a dead infant was a sensation affecting nearly half the city, many verdicts, when death was sudden, attributed the decease to "the visitation of God."

Our courts, circuit and criminal, were

held in the east portion of the city hall, erected by the corporation, but a portion of the cost had been paid back a few years before by the general government. The Circuit Court was presided over by Justices William Cranch, James S. Morsell and James Dunlop. The Criminal Court by Judge T. Hartley Crawford, and the Orphans' Court by Judge William F. Purcell. Richard Wallach was marshal; John A. Smith, clerk of the court, also in charge of the land records, and Edward N. Roach, register of wills.

The penitentiary, to which the unlucky convicts had a straight road from the court house, was at the foot of 4½ street, and was then under the charge of Mr. J. B. Ellis as warden, with a force of six or eight assistants and guards. There were on an average eighty prisoners monthly, who were employed in making shoes.

The corporation officers were located in the west end of the building, which was then in an unfinished condition and presented an unsightly appearance from the northward, the brick wall not even being whitewashed, illy comparing with the old Washington Infirmary (the original jail), north of the line of E street, and the then jail popularly called the "Blue Jug," in the northeast portion of Judiciary Square. It was, however, in keeping with the condition of the grounds, unimproved, save by a roadway along E street from 5th street, with the open branch coming down 5th street from the Willow Tree spring, near New York avenue and 5th street, known as Moore's branch, entering the northwest corner of the square and emerging therefrom at 4th and E streets, crossing down to the Tiber near Indiana avenue and 1st street. In this building justice was administered, and in it many noted cases were ruled upon by the judges above named, and from it numbers of convicts were sent to the scaffold or the penitentiary, then near the arsenal. Among the other practitioners at the bar now recalled were Gen. Walter Jones, Judge Wylie, Daniel Radcliffe, Joseph H. Bradley, Walter D. Davidge, E. C. Morgan, P. R. Fendall, James M. Carlisle, Walter Lenox, A. H. Laurence, John Decker, Pollard Webb, Michael Thompson, William J. Stone, Jr., R. H. Laskey, W. A. Linton, Edward Swann, John Saunders, J. O. Sargent, Perry E. Brocchus, P. Barton Key, James Chestney, J. W. Sheahan, W. T. Swann, C. H. Stewart, B. E. Green, William B. Webb, O. S. Peck, C. P. Van Ness, C. S. Wallach, Eugene Cumiskey, W. B. Cross, Richard H. Clark and Johnson Hellen.

There were some sixty justices of the peace appointed for the District, numbers of them confining their duties to work in the departments in taking affidavits, etc., and others to issuing process or warrants as basis for trial by other justices. A number, however, devoted all their time to the duties of their office, particularly those known as police justices. These were Samuel Drury, John D. Clark, Samuel Grubb, B. K. Morsell, William Thompson, James Crandell and Craven Ashford. Other names recalled are John L. Smith, John H. Goddard, Thomas C. Donn, William Waters, P. M. Pearson, John W. Beck, Samuel Smoot, Benedict Milburn, Thomas Donoho, J. P. Van Tyne, Zach Walker, F. S. Myer and N. Callan.

The Markets, Colleges and Schools.

There were four public markets—the Center or Marsh market, now the Washington, facing Pennsylvania avenue between 7th and 9th streets, two long sheds with a smaller one extending southward in what would be 8th street, with a brick building in the center of small size, the upper portion being fitted as the quarters of the auxiliary guard and the lower portion containing the cells and a scale house for the market master; the Western, at Pennsylvania avenue and 20th street, a por-

tion being of brick with a long shed extending westward; the Northern Liberty, at 7th and K streets, a brick structure, which had but recently been extended, and the Navy Yard or Branch market, somewhat similar to the Western, at K and 5th streets southeast. To these the housekeepers would go for their fresh supplies. What are now known as green groceries, or market stores, had not come into existence to any extent. The principal butchers were Philip Otterbach, Charles Miller, Sam Hoover, John Hoover, William Peake, Samuel Little, George Miller, John Bohlayer, David Miller, John Murphy, James Johnson, Tom Shoemaker, John Walker, Joseph Peck, J. T. Walker, Benjamin Geier, George Keating, Mrs. Hager, David Rawlings, M. Ruppert, C. Thoma, the Weavers and others.

In Georgetown there was the Catholic College, and near the upper end of 14th street, on the hill, the old Columbian College building. The latter was a fine old-fashioned brick building, facing south, with the houses of the president, Dr. Bacon, and others, about what would be the line of 15th street, facing eastward. Other institutions of learning were the Washington Seminary, a three-story brick building, on F street between 9th and 10th streets, which is now Gonzaga College, located on I street near St. Aloysius Church; St. Joseph's Academy for Girls, 9th and F streets; the Rittenhouse Academy, on Indiana avenue near 3d street; the Rugby Academy, 14th and K streets; the Union Academy, 14th street and New York avenue; McLeod's Academy, 9th street between G and H streets; Emerson Institute, H street between 12th and 13th streets; the Central Academy, 10th and E streets; Mrs. Burr's Academy, on H street near 13th street, and others. Among the teachers were Prof. Charles H. Nourse, Prof. Cushman, Mr. Clarks, James Nourse, F. W. Morrison, Mason Noble, Z. Richards, A. C. Richards, C. B. Young, O. C. Wight, Mrs. G. Webster, Mrs. Addison, Miss Cotter, Misses Tyson, G. J. Abbott, Alexander Hayes, J. F. McCarty, P. Moss and Miss Sendorff. There were also parochial schools, few in number, maintained by Catholics.

Our public schools, from 1804 to 1844 but two in number, had been increased to four about ten years before, now included the primary grade and numbered twenty in the entire city. There were not 3,000 pupils in attendance, but the line of education carried them beyond the "three-R course" of reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. The four district schools were in buildings owned by the city, that of the first district at the corner of 14th and G streets, a remodeled stable; that at 5th and F streets, a two-story building of brick for the second district; 3d and D streets southeast, for the third district, and 6th and D streets southwest, for the fourth district, were also of brick, but none of them would be regarded suitable now for a country school house. The district schools were taught, respectively, by Samuel Kelly, Thos. M. Wilson, Isaac McCathran and John E. Thompson, each having an assistant; Mrs. Henshaw, Mrs. S. P. Randolph, Miss C. D. Martin and Mrs. M. A. Hinton filling those positions. The other teachers were in the first district, A. Lindsay, Mrs. A. O. Johnson, Mrs. M. E. Rodier, Miss Alice English and Miss M. F. Nevins; in the second district, Rezin Beck, Miss M. A. Joyce, Miss L. H. Randolph, Miss C. L. Nevitt, Miss R. M. Ogden; John Fill, Miss C. D. Martin, Mr. W. M. McCathran, Miss Frances Elvans, Miss Freeman, Miss Clark and Miss Jane Morse of the third district; A. M. Smith, Miss M. B. Anderson, Miss M. P. Middleton and Miss M. A. Milburn in the fourth district.

The Churches and Associations.

That the community was fairly well supplied with facilities for Christian worship



THE CAPITOL FROM INDIANA AVENUE AND 3RD STREET.
Trinity Church and the store of Mr. W. W. Birch in the foreground.